

DISCUSSION

The difference between the elected claims and the prior art lies in providing a device at the checkout area of a store which allows for the grouping, holding and closing of multiple bags in conjunction with a carrying handle. The examiner may note the elected claims are amended in order to clean up an apparent misconception of the invention which includes restriction to 11-14 and cancelling claim 10 in the election as a non-elected species.

CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

No additional fee is believed necessary.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 06-2129 in the name of Gregory M. Friedlander.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit account 06-2129.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United State Postal Service as Express Mail NO.: EV 278560215 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Alexandra, VA 22313 on the 7 day of June, 2005.



GREGORY M. FRIEDLANDER